

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cosmetic composition comprising a lipophilic extract of *Serenoa repens* in an amount sufficient to provide a retarding action on the growth of superfluous hair, wherein said lipophilic extract has a fatty acids content of at least about 85% (w/w) and a phytosterols content of less than about 0.4%.

2. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory, vasal protective agent, or anti-itching agent.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of triterpenes from liquorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*), saponins from horse chestnut plant (*Aesculus hyppocastanum*), triterpenes from *Terminalia sericea*, isobutylamides from *Zanthoxylum bungeanum* (sin Alatum) and mixtures thereof and the vasal protective agent is selected from the group consisting of ginkgoflavoneglucosides and terpenes from Ginkgo (*Ginkgo Biloba*), polyphenols from grapes seeds (*Vitis vinifera*), anthocyanosides from bilberries (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), saponins from butcher's broom (*Rescus aculeatus*), and mixtures thereof.

4. The compositions of claim 3, wherein each anti-inflammatory agent, vasal protective agent, or anti-itching agent is present in an amount from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight.

5. The composition of claim 2, wherein each anti-inflammatory agent, vasal protective agent, or anti-itching agent is complexed with one or more phospholipids.

6. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically or cosmetically acceptable carrier or excipient.

7. The composition of claim 2, further comprising a pharmaceutically or cosmetically acceptable carrier or excipient.

8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lipophilic extract of *Serenoa repens* is present in an amount of about 0.1% to about 3% by weight.

9. The composition of claim 1, in the form of a liquid, a solid, or a semi-solid.

10. The composition of claim 9, in the form of a lotion, a milk, a solution, an emulsion, a cream, a paste, a gel, a foam, or a combination thereof.

11. The composition of claim 2, in the form of a liquid, a solid, or a semi-solid.

12. The composition of claim 11, in the form of a lotion, a milk, a solution, an emulsion, a cream, a paste, a gel, a foam, or a combination thereof.

13. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a conventional depilatory agents.

14. The composition of claim 2, further comprising a conventional depilatory agents.

15. The composition of claim 1, wherein the conventional depilatory agents comprises a thiol derivative; thioglycolic acid, thiolactic acid, or an alkali or alkaline-earth metal salt thereof; ethanolamine thioglycate; aminoethanethiol; mercaptopropionic acid; thioglycic acid, thioacetic acid; barium sulfate; or a mixture thereof.

16. The composition of claim 2, wherein the conventional depilatory agents comprises a thiol derivative; thioglycolic acid, thiolactic acid, or an alkali or alkaline-earth metal salt thereof; ethanolamine thioglycate; aminoethanethiol; mercaptopropionic acid; thioglycic acid, thioacetic acid; barium sulfate; or a mixture thereof.

17. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a conventional depilation accelerator.
18. The composition of claim 17, wherein the conventional depilation accelerator comprises a urea, a thiourea, a biguanide, or a combination thereof.
19. The composition of claim 2, further comprising a conventional depilation accelerator.
20. The composition of claim 19, wherein the conventional depilation accelerator comprises a urea, a thiourea, a biguanide, or a combination thereof.
21. A method of retarding the growth of superfluous hair on a body comprising applying to a region of the body having superfluous hair the composition of claim 1.
22. A method of retarding the growth of superfluous hair on a body comprising applying to a region of the body having superfluous hair the composition of claim 2.